

# PATMORE, DEREK, 1908- Derek Patmore papers, 1928-1968

Emory University  
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## Descriptive Summary

**Creator:** Patmore, Derek, 1908-  
**Title:** Derek Patmore papers, 1928-1968  
**Call Number:** Manuscript Collection No. 645  
**Extent:** .75 linear ft. (2 boxes)  
**Abstract:** Papers of British author Derek Patmore including typescripts and manuscript of writings, correspondence, and photographs.  
**Language:** Materials entirely in English.

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## Administrative Information

### Restrictions on Access

Unrestricted access.

### Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

### Source

Purchase, 1985.

### Citation

[after identification of item(s)], Derek Patmore papers, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

### Processing

Processed by W. Bradford Smith, August 1989.

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## Collection Description

### Biographical Note

Derek Coventry Deighton Patmore, British author and decorator, was born January 15, 1908 in London. His father, John Deighton Patmore, was the grandson of the Victorian poet Coventry

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Kersey Dighton Patmore. Derek's mother, Ethel Elizabeth (Brigit) Morrison-Scott (1882-1965) had studied piano at Dresden and was a writer in her own right. After Derek's father lost his fortune in 1924, his parent's marriage broke down, and in 1926 they separated. Derek Patmore went to live with his mother and younger brother Michael (b. 1911). Brigit Patmore moved in the higher literary circles of English Bohemia, and became acquainted with such men as Ezra Pound, T.S. Eliot, Ford Maddox Ford, D.H. Lawrence, (who based the character of Clarissa Browning in *Aaron's Rod* on Brigit Patmore), William Butler Yeats, H.G. Wells, Aldous Huxley, Richard Aldington, Ernest Hemingway, Noel Coward, and Evelyn Waugh. Brigit Patmore wrote two novels herself, *This Impassioned Onlooker* (1926), and *No Tomorrow* (1929), both of which are extremely rare. Her memoirs, *My Friends When Young*, was edited by Derek Patmore and published in 1964. Derek was educated at Northaw Place preparatory school and Uppingham. He had to leave school at age 17 owing to his father's bankruptcy. After working a short time for an insurance company, he took up a position with the decorating firm of Marshall and Lapton. In 1928, he came to New York with Lloyd Morris, a publisher. During this stay he wrote for *Vogue* and *House and Garden*. After returning to England, he wrote *Color Schemes for the Modern Home*, a book on design. In 1935, Derek went to the U.S. and gave a decorating show at Altmans department store. He also published his *Portrait of My Family* in that year. In 1936, he went to the Balkans, spending time in Greece and Roumania, and wrote the books *Images of Greece* and *Invitation to Roumania* (both 1938). On the eve of World War II, Patmore produced two plays, "Life of a Lady" and "French for Love" (with Margaret Steen). With the outbreak of war, he went to the Balkans as a war correspondent and described his experiences in *Balkan Correspondent* (1941). Other works by Derek Patmore include *Private History* (an autobiography), *The Life and Times of Coventry Patmore*, *Italian Pageant*, *A Traveller in Vienna*, *Canada*, *Dark Places of the Heart*, *A Reporter's Notebook*, *The Star and the Crescent: An Anthology of Modern Turkish Poetry*, *The Selected Poems of Coventry Patmore*, and *Selected Prose of Walter Pater*. Additional information on Derek Patmore and Brigit Patmore can be found in Derek Patmore, *Private History*, and Brigit Patmore, *My Friends When Young*.

### Scope and Content Note

The Derek Patmore papers contain typescripts and manuscript of writings, correspondence, and photographs dating from 1916 to 1968. The largest concentration is from the 1940s to 1960s. The papers are divided into three series by type of material and arranged chronologically. Within each series, the original order in which the materials were received has been preserved where possible. Series 1 contains literary works of Derek Patmore, dating from 1945 to 1968 and including many unpublished works, and the typescripts for Brigit Patmore's memoirs *My Friends When Young*, including Derek Patmore's introduction. Also located is a notebook containing copies of unpublished letters from H.G. Wells to Odett Keum, compiled by Brigit Patmore. Series 2 contains the correspondence between Derek Patmore and Brigit Patmore from 1945 to 1963. Also included is a letter from Tennyson Patmore (Derek's grandfather) to Brigit Patmore, dated 1916. Series 3 contains photographs and drawings of Derek Patmore and Brigit Patmore, as well as of other notables, including Richard Aldington, H.G. Wells, Violet Hunt, Sir Osbert Sitwell and various family members.

### Arrangement Note

Organized into three series: (1) Literary works, (2) Correspondence and (3) Pictures.

## **Description of Series**

[Series 1: Literary works, 1945-1968](#)

[Series 2: Correspondence, 1945-1963](#)

[Series 3: Photographs, 1928-1937](#)

**Series 1**  
**Literary works, 1945-1968**  
**Box 1**

**Derek Patmore: Literary Works**

Box	Folder	Content
1	1	TS "Pages from a Greek Journal," 1945-1946
1	2	Articles: "The Pre-Raphaelites", <i>Radis Times</i> , August 15, 1948; "The Pre-Raphaelites," <i>The Spectator</i> , October 10, 1948
1	3	Radio Program: "Poems and Paintings of the Pre-Raphaelites," August 20, [1948]
1	4	TS Unpublished preface to Coventry Patmore, <i>The Rod, the Root, and the Flower</i> , 1950
1	5	MS notebook: "Notes for Vol II Autobiography, <i>The Unexpected Future</i> ," London and Andalucia, 1961, Baalbek, 1962
1	6	MS notebook: "The Fiesta of San Isidro," 1962-1963
1	7	TS lecture: "Coventry Patmore and his Circle," July 24, 1963; MS notebook: original of same
1	8	MS notebook: "Canada 1965"

**Derek Patmore: Three Essays on Contemporary English Artists**

1	9	"Music and the Arts: Brighton, London," 1960-1966; "Introduction to the Retrospective Exhibition of Printings by Francis Rose," 1966
1	10	MS notebook: "Introduction to Exhibition of sculpture by Olaff de Wet," 1966-1967

**Derek Patmore: Undated Works**

1	11	TS unpublished play: "The Commissar"
1	12	MS unpublished radio play: "Thomas Lowell Beddoes"; TS unpublished preface to <i>Lady Maury Wortley Montague</i>

**Brigit Patmore: TSs for *My Friends when Young***

1	13	Table of contents and introduction by Derek Patmore
1	14	Part I, "Marrying into a Literary Dynasty"
1	15	Part II, "The Aftermath"
1	16	Part III, "Halycon Days - Writers, Poets, and Friends"
1	17	Correspondence with publisher and miscellaneous page proofs

**Brigit Patmore: Undated Works**

1	18	MS notebook: "Copies of unpublished letters from H.G. Wells to Odett Kern," compiled by Brigit Patmore
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**Series 2**  
**Correspondence, 1945-1963**  
**Box 2: folders 1-3**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
2	1	Derek Patmore to Brigit Patmore, 1948-1963, n.d.
2	2	Brigit Patmore to Derek Patmore, 1945-1963, n.d.
2	3	Tennyson Patmore to Brigit Patmore, June 18, 1916

**Series 3**  
**Photographs, 1928-1937**  
**Box 2: Folders 4-7**

**Scope and Content Note**

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<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
2	4	Derek Patmore: Photographs, 1931, 1935; pencil sketch by Gregorio Priebo [n.d.]; photograph with Richard Aldington [n.d.]
2	5	Brigit Patmore: Photograph, 1928; photograph with Richard Aldington (1935?); photograph with Thomas McGreevy (1937); Photograph [n.d.], painting of Brigit Patmore by John Sauteer [print, n.d.]
2	6	Family portraits: Bette Patmore [n.d.]; Brigit Patmore's mother [n.d.]; Robert Morrison Scott, (Brigit Patmore's brother) [n.d.]
2	7	Miscellaneous pictures: Photograph of Richard Aldington at age 17; line drawing of Violet Hunt [n.d.]; photograph of Princess Marthe Bibesco of Idaria c. 1923; 2 photographs of Sir Osbert Sitwell (1933); photograph of Elizabeth Russell and H.G. Wells (1933)

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